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Wing troops earn awards

Compiled from staff reports

Air Force, U.S. Air Forces in Europe and 52nd Fighter Wing officials recently announced 1999 unit and individual awards winners in media and air traffic control, and quarterly award winners for January through March.

Here's a look at the winners and their categories:

Air Force Media Contest

■ **Eifel Times**; third place; military funded newspaper (large)

■ **Eifel Times** Operation Allied Force Special Edition; first place; special achievement

■ Senior Airman **Melissa Allan** and Staff Sgt. **Jennifer Wessner** for "Eifel Morning Show;" second place; radio entertainment program

■ **Detachment 9**, Air Force News, Spangdahlem for "105.1 Days of Summer Survival;" first place; command information campaign

Air traffic control

■ Master Sgt. **Lawrence Cole**, Air Traffic Control Training Achievement Award for USAFE

Quarterly awards

■ Staff Sgt. **Bland Casteen**, education and training section, 52nd Medical Operations Squadron NCO

■ Airman 1st Class **Kelly Barrows**, pediatric clinic, 52nd MDOS airman

■ Airman 1st Class **Randell Merrihew**, 606th Air Control Squadron airman

■ Staff Sgt. **Jacquelynn Whitehat**, 606th ACS NCO

■ Senior Master Sgt. **Alvin S. Stanley**, 606th ACS senior NCO

■ Airman 1st Class **Michelle Ott**, 52nd Equipment Maintenance Squadron airman

■ Tech. Sgt. **Jeffery Klemm**, 52nd EMS NCO

■ Master Sgt. **Don Disharoon**, 52nd EMS senior NCO

■ Senior Airman **Michael Moore**, 52nd EMS safety award

■ Tech. Sgt. **Jeff Dose**, 52nd EMS safety award

■ Tech. Sgt. **Michael Brooks**, 52nd EMS NCO maintenance professional

■ Senior Airman **John Biery**, 52nd EMS airman maintenance professional

■ Airman 1st Class **Nathan Ullmann**, 52nd Supply Squadron airman

■ Tech. Sgt. **Susan Chandler**, 52nd SUPS NCO

■ Master Sgt. **Sharon Hamilton**, 52nd SUPS senior NCO

■ **James Leahy**, 52nd SUPS senior-level civilian

■ 1st Lt. **Daniel Beard**, 52nd SUPS company grade officer

■ Capt. **Lorraine Gallagher**, 52nd Dental Squadron company grade officer

■ Staff Sgt. **Angela Lamont**, 52nd DS NCO

■ Senior Airman **Jennifer Berry**, 52nd DS airman

■ Airman 1st Class **Jennifer Clemans**, 52nd Contracting Squadron airman

■ Staff Sgt. **Duane Frey**, 52nd CONS NCO

■ **Ulla Heck**, 52nd CONS civilian



Senior Airman Esperanza Berrios

Slovak President Rudolf Schuster, center, watches a demonstration of the MK-6 Andros robot operated by Tech. Sgt. Scott Sawyer, 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron, during the president's tour of U.S. operations in Slovakia.

Spangdahlem wows Slovak pres.

Officials discuss successes of first fighter deployment

By 1st Lt. **Angela Johnson**
52nd Fighter Wing public affairs

Spangdahlem Air Base members deployed to Malacky Air Force Base impressed Slovak President Rudolf Schuster during his Tuesday visit to the 23rd Fighter Squadron "Hawks."

He was particularly impressed with the operations set up and excited about seeing U.S. F-16's in the country, according to Peter Sobcak, Slovak ministry of defense public relations.

Schuster and about 50 guests, ranging from ambassadors to two-star generals, received briefings from U.S. and Slovak commanders. The briefings included information on the successes of the first deployment of U.S. aircraft to the former communist Czechoslovakia.

Afterward, Capt. Rick Wageman explained the functions of the F-16CJ and answered questions ranging from cockpit displays to side-stick control and weapons systems to aircraft speed.

Up next for the group was a demonstration by the explosive ordinance disposal team using the MK-6 Andros robot, a

\$200,000 piece of equipment designed to recon and safe explosive devices.

"The president seemed very well informed (about the workings of the robot)," said Tech. Sgt. Scott Sawyer, EOD technician. "He told me when Slovakia joined NATO he wanted to buy equipment such as the MK-6."

The president also confided in Staff Sgt. David Zaccaniti, another EOD technician, that he would like to secretly come back and drive the robot. "He didn't want to slip up in front of the press or his secret service men," he said.

At the end of the day, Col. Juraj Baranic, 33rd Air Force Base commander, and Lt. Col. Richard Reynolds, 23rd FS commander, sat down with the president for a traditional Slovak stew and bread served from a field kitchen.

"To showcase the 52nd Fighter Wing's outstanding work in bringing the 'Fighting Hawks' to Slovakia was a tremendous honor," Reynolds said. "We built some awesome bridges today, ones that we could never have imagined 10 years ago."

The aircraft and more than 200 Spangdahlem members deployed to Slovakia return home Saturday and Sunday.

Deployed troops use time charitably

By Chaplain (Maj.) **Patrick Ryan**
52nd Fighter Wing chaplain

With temperatures ranging in the 40's and winds up to 60 knots, the 23rd Fighting Squadron "Hawks" fight to keep flying and dropping bombs at the Kuchyna range near Malacky Air Force Base, Slovakia.

Despite the weather, members deployed from Spangdahlem joined with their Slovak counterparts for a joint church service Sunday in the local community. At the end of the service, a collection was taken to raise money for chairs in the barren base chapel.

While the 33rd Air Force Base at Malacky has a new chapel, there's no place to sit. They were given the chapel space in a new building on base and some of the conscripts managed to create an altar, pulpit, lectern and chair out of old airplane parts. Due to limited funding, however, they couldn't come up with the resources to supply their chapel

with chairs.

1st Lt. Angela Johnson, 52nd Fighter Wing public affairs, worked with the base and local chaplains to arrange the worship service. The service was conducted in both English and Slovak to a packed house.

"The idea that the U.S. airmen had to help buy chairs for our chapel is wonderful," said Slovak Chaplain (Maj.) Milos Krchnavy, 33rd AFB chaplain. "It not only helps us, but it also shows our community that you are here to support us as well as use our range."

Following worship service, the town mayor welcomed the Spangdahlem airmen with a tour and history lesson of the church. In April 1945, Americans were bombing the retreating German army. A bomb missed its intended target and landed instead atop the church, packed with Sunday worshippers. Fortunately, the bomb didn't explode and

some town children found the bomb and reported it to officials, the mayor recounted.

Senior Airman James Vance, with the deployed EOD team, was impressed with the mayor's tour of the church and the history lesson.

"It was a great experience to gather with the people of the town in this church and experience the history of this community," he said.

Maj. Paul Nelson, 23rd FS flight surgeon, enjoyed the time of worship and the gathering afterward of two nations joining hands in friendship.

"This was a great opportunity for us to thank our Slovak neighbors for their hospitality and then to worship with them, helping to build up the base chapel," Nelson said.



Airman 1st Class Michelle Roquid

Contractors work on the new "1+1" dormitory along Perimeter Road.

'1+1' adds up to single



(Editor's Note: SPANGDAHLEMM under Construction is a periodic update of projects around the base. The goal is to inform people of various facility upgrades, road construction, detours, renovations and more, and how it impacts people who live and work on base. Information for the column is provided by members of the 52nd Civil Engineer Squadron.)

Project: Construction of Spangdahlem Air Base's fourth "1+1" dormitory, building 332. This dorm is a 108-person facility in a "1+1" module design where two single rooms share a kitchen and bathroom. The kitchen includes a stove, refrigerator, microwave and dishwasher. It will be T-shape, just like the two recently completed dorms. Included in the construction are a parking lot, basketball court and volleyball court. The room and bathroom sizes are established by Defense Department limits.

Location: Along Perimeter Road and next to the Spangdahlem Middle School, across from the other new dormitories. Many rooms will have views of the Eifel countryside.

Start date: August 1999.

Completion date: September 2000.

Cost: \$5.2 million, paid for by Congress with military construction money.

Impact: Civil engineers say this newest dorm will take a big bite out of the base's dormitory deficiency by allowing more single airmen to live on base. It also promotes unit integrity by allowing squadrons to live together. Another benefit is the base can start to empty dormitories 177 and 178, the two closest to the flightline. It's another quality-of-life enhancement.



Staff Sgt. Laura Sparks

Nancy James and Brianna Kuner play with blocks at the Spangdahlem child development center Wednesday.

Provider makes impression on children, parents alike

By Julie Speegle
52nd Services Squadron marketing and publicity

Before coming to Spangdahlem Air Base in June 1997, Nancy James always wanted to work with young children.

That desire led her to a position in the Spangdahlem child development center and recently earned her the 1999 Leader of the Year Award for the Eifel child care community.

In her three years as a child care professional, James has helped develop children through their early childhood years.

"I was so surprised (upon finding out about the award)," said James, who is a program technician at the CDC. "At the awards presentation, I thought I'd be clapping for everyone else, but instead they

were clapping for me."

Known as "Aunt Miss Nancy" to the 3, 4 and 5 year olds in her care, James has worn a lot of hats during her tenure at the CDC. She served as a cook, dishwasher, room leader and facility supervisor. She said the most important part of her job, though, has always been being there for the children and their parents.

"Children need love and discipline to learn to face life," James said. "That requires involvement by the parents. They need to know what is going on in their child's day. That's where I fill the role of co-parent."

Eifel parents confirm James is effective in the role of co-parent and say they look to her for insight into their children's lives.

"Nancy knows my child almost as well as

I do," said Master Sgt. Sherry Rossi, an Eifel Parents Advisory Council representative. "She teaches the kids so many wonderful things, everything from the ABC's and 123's to socialization skills. I can really see the benefits of Nancy's care."

James credits her own mother for much of her success.

"My mom has been the biggest influence on my life," she said. "She has taught me to be caring and giving."

What is most important, she said, is having a love for her job. "When you love your job, it really shows in your work."

To learn more about CDC programs, call the Spangdahlem center at 452-6697 or Bitburg at 453-7012.